

grants and community support. Through Dr. Ochoa's numerous programs and outreach activities Sun Gallery has become a true community based art gallery in which individuals feel invested and point to Sun Gallery with pride of ownership.

Dr. Ochoa was hired in April 1996 to serve as the Director of Sun Gallery. During her tenure, the growth at Sun Gallery has been remarkable. She developed a comprehensive educational program for children, increased the Gallery's funding base, brought a wide range of internationally and nationally regarded artists to exhibit at the gallery, and most importantly, brought the community to Sun Gallery. She tripled the number of school children served annually by the gallery.

Sun Gallery's classroom field trip program is now regarded as one of the premiere art education programs in the region. Dr. Ochoa also developed, in tandem with local artists and teachers, a bronze-casting curriculum that is now offered in high schools in Hayward, California.

Dr. Ochoa has stated that she is quite honored to have been selected to bring Sun Gallery into the 21st Century and is deeply humbled to have been able to serve the community, while working in a visual arts setting.

We are honored that Dr. Ochoa chose to lead Sun Gallery with her energy, commitment and talent. She leaves a legacy and her indelible mark on Sun Gallery. I join her friends and admirers in thanking her for a job well done.

HONORING ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL'S NATIONAL MAGNET AWARD

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital for earning a Magnet Award, the highest honor a hospital can receive for patient care. St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital is the first hospital in Houston and one of only 31 hospitals nationwide to win this coveted distinction. This Magnet Award is presented by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for the patient care provided by the St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital's nursing staff. As the representative for St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, I want to congratulate the entire nursing staff for the quality health care services that they provide not just to local residents, but also to patients from throughout the world.

On Monday, May 7, 2001, I participated in the Magnet Award Ceremony at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital to honor these dedicated nurses who provide top quality care. I can personally attest to the care provided at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital through my family's experience. Several years ago, my uncle former Senator Lloyd Bentsen was treated at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital where he received the best available care to treat his illness. Also participating at this Awards Ceremony to honor the nursing staff of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital were two prestigious patients, former Houston Mayor Bob Lanier and Nolan Ryan. In addition, the Ceremony included former Houston City Councilman

Judson Robinson's wife, Mrs. Margarette Robinson. Mrs. Robinson was the first African American nurse to work in the surgical facilities at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

In a time when many hospitals are facing difficulties in recruiting and retaining their nursing staff, this Magnet Award demonstrates that St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital is providing a nurturing work environment where all employees work collaboratively toward the common goal of providing quality health care services to their patients. A recent Wall Street Journal article recommended to its readers that they should seek care at a magnet hospital in their area.

The Magnet Award program began in 1993 as a means to recognize centers of excellence in nursing care. This program reviews the management philosophy and practices of nursing staff; adherence to standards for improving the quality of patient care; leadership in supporting continued competence of nursing personnel; and attention to the cultural and ethnic diversity of patients and their significant others.

Clearly, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital has worked hard to provide the resources and personnel needed to accomplish this goal. The nursing staff is the backbone of any hospital and the nurses at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital have earned a distinction worthy of special praise.

CONGRATULATING ESTONIA, LATVIA, AND LITHUANIA ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania threw off the yoke of Soviet domination and regained their independence. Between World War I and World War II, they had been sovereign nations and respected members of the international community. In 1939, however, they were illegally partitioned between Hitler and Stalin as part of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement. Based on this agreement, Hitler gave Stalin the green light to seize the Baltic states. I am proud to state that the illegal incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the Soviet Union was never recognized by the United States Government.

Stalin's NKVD killed or exiled thousands of Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians who resisted the takeover and subjugation. If not murdered outright, tens of thousands of Baltic citizens were rounded up and loaded into railroad cars to be shipped to distant regions of the Soviet Union. The current president of Estonia, for instance, grew up in Siberia. The President of Latvia, whom I recently had the pleasure of meeting, grew up in a refugee camp in Germany where her family had fled from the Soviet incursion. Almost 300,000 Lithuanians were deported to Siberia in the 1940s and 1950s. Those Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians who remained in their homelands saw their native languages and cultures denigrated in favor of Soviet "culture" and linguistic "Russification."

Among the political prisoners in the post-Stalin GULAG, the Balts were well represented. We still remember the names of Baltic political prisoners such as Mart Niklus, Gunars Astra, and Nijole Sadunaite, and many others willing to sacrifice their freedom and, in some cases, give their lives to resist Soviet oppression of their homelands.

But the Soviet system was doomed and the people of the Baltic nations knew it. "Glasnost" and "perestroika" gave them the opportunity to resolutely, but peacefully, work to regain their independence. In August 1989, on the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement, about one million Balts created a human chain the "Baltic Way," stretching about 400 miles from Estonia, through Latvia, to Lithuania to protest Soviet rule over their nations. Two years later, after a bloody but ultimately fruitless attempt by Moscow to regain armed control over its unruly subjects, the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania had regained the independence they had dreamed of for so long.

And now, ten years after that momentous event, the Baltic nations are again sovereign nations, respected members of the international community. Their David-and-Goliath struggle is an inspiration to enslaved peoples everywhere.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am joined by Mr. HOYER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, in submitting a resolution which congratulates the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the restoration of their full independence. This resolution also calls upon the United States Government to continue the close and mutually beneficial relations with these countries that have existed since the restoration of full independence.

I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO STETSON UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, as the State of Florida recently celebrated its 156th anniversary, Stetson University and President H. Douglas Lee, along with the Dean Gary Vauss of the School of Law, recognized the occasion by hosting an event attended by Floridians in Washington, D.C.

Stetson University was founded in 1883 with a population of only 13 students. It established Florida's first professional schools in Business, Law and Music.

The University, with 2,491 students and a student-faculty ratio of 11 to 1, embraces six core values of education: (1) Ethical Decisions, (2) Religious and Spiritual Life, (3) Environmental Responsibility, (4) Diversity and Global Awareness, (5) Community Service and (6) Gender Equality. The School of Law, with 708 students and a student-faculty ratio of 18 to 1, has established centers of excellence in Advocacy, Elder Law, Dispute Resolution Health Law and Litigation Ethics. It also ranks in the top three of accredited Law Schools in the United States for Trial Advocacy.